Dear Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jake Lemmon and I live in Spokane, WA. I grew up in Toledo, Oregon; graduated from Toledo High School; got my BS and Masters at Eastern Oregon University and I am currently an Assistant Principal at a Spokane Elementary School.

I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

They say I began swimming with my mom 6 weeks after I was born. I can't remember a time when I, my family and friends didn't swim at the Toledo Pool. I was featured in a picture with the local newspaper wearing a large face mask and snorkel. I was one of the second grade swim students who were taking lessons (during) school time in order to learn how to swim. Growing up we were surrounded by water (rivers, lakes, the ocean) and learning how to swim was important. My family farm located by a reservoir made it possible for us to swim a lot.

When we (2 parents and us 4 children) went on family vacations we always looked forward to ending the day by going swimming at hotels, rivers, lakes; rafting and canoeing; or going to a variety of water parks. All of us were good swimmers and we became that way because we swam at the Toledo Pool often.

In high school we enjoyed learning how to do somersaults off the board. Later when I coached football at Toledo High School we would have some of the team members do workouts at the pool. When my wife, our two sons and I visit Toledo we usually all go to the pool and swim as a family. It's a tradition and my sons always look forward to going to the Toledo pool where other family members and friends join us.

I strongly urge you to give this funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center a high priority. We are a small community and with very few alternative activities. The pool is in the middle of a recreational and learning complex which is used by all age groups. We need your help to keep it alive and well. I can't imagine Toledo not having a pool.

Thank you.

Jake Lemmon